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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 152 Session of 2017

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, READSHAW, BULLOCK, TOOIL, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, MURT, HILL-EVANS, FREEMAN, O'BRIEN, SOLOMON, CALTAGIRONE, WATSON, MILLARD, FRANKEL, V. BROWN, WARREN, VITALI, THOMAS, NEILSON, D. COSTA AND MARSICO, MARCH 16, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 16, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2017 as "Rainforest Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania and urging Commonwealth residents to  
3 become aware of the disappearing rainforests worldwide and to  
4 make choices that can lead to protection of those remaining  
5 areas.

6 WHEREAS, Rainforests originally covered 12% of the earth's  
7 surface, and now cover just 6%, yet are home to more than one  
8 half of the planet's species; and

9 WHEREAS, Fifty million indigenous peoples call the  
10 rainforests home and have lived there sustainably for thousands  
11 of years; and

12 WHEREAS, More than 25% of the medicines in general use today  
13 originated in the rainforests; and

14 WHEREAS, Although they cover only a small portion of the  
15 earth's surface, rainforests affect climate and weather  
16 worldwide; and

17 WHEREAS, Tropical rainforests replenish 20% of the oxygen in  
18 the atmosphere through photosynthesis; and

1       WHEREAS, More importantly, tropical rainforests store vast  
2 amounts of carbon in their biomass which is, in large part, the  
3 carbon released by the burning of fossil fuels for cars,  
4 electricity and industry; and

5       WHEREAS, When forests are destroyed, often by burning, huge  
6 amounts of CO2 are released, exacerbating the greenhouse effect  
7 and global warming; and

8       WHEREAS, Rainforests play a key role in controlling flooding,  
9 erosion and siltation in many parts of the world, as they absorb  
10 huge amounts of rainfall and then slowly release it as a  
11 constant supply of clean H2O; and

12       WHEREAS, Global weather patterns are impacted by the dark,  
13 warm and humid rainforests due to the slowly released water  
14 vapor that rises to the atmosphere and forms clouds, which  
15 travel great distances and bring essential rain all over the  
16 world; and

17       WHEREAS, Rainforests are also responsible for maintaining the  
18 hydrological cycle and rainfall patterns, and one tree can  
19 release as much as 75 gallons of water per day; and

20       WHEREAS, According to the Rainforest Foundation US,  
21 rainforest acreage equal to the size of a football field is  
22 destroyed every second; and

23       WHEREAS, Approximately 32 million acres of rainforest are  
24 lost each year around the globe; therefore be it

25       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
26 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania join with the Rainforest Foundation  
27 US in recognizing the month of May 2017 as "Rainforest Awareness  
28 Month" in Pennsylvania, and urge all Commonwealth residents to  
29 make small, everyday choices which can have a far-reaching  
30 positive impact on rainforest protection by choosing products

1 that include sustainably harvested rainforest resources that do  
2 not compromise the well-being of rainforest communities and  
3 species; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all  
5 Commonwealth residents to become more conscious of the benefits  
6 of the world's rainforests, for schools to hold discussions  
7 about the effects that the disappearance of rainforests may have  
8 on the world and that all residents speak out to the President  
9 and the Congress of the United States, corporate officials and  
10 others about any concerns they may have about the need to  
11 protect the world's rainforests; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the Rainforest Foundation US, to the presiding officers of each  
14 house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
15 Pennsylvania.